

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hartinger et al.
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Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to examination on the merits, please amend the application as follows

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, before Paragraph 0001, insert: --Field of the Invention--.

On page 1, before Paragraph 0002: --Background--.

On page 2, before Paragraph 0006, insert: --Summary of the Invention--.

On page 6, before Paragraph 0020, insert: --Brief Description of the Figures--.

On page 7, before Paragraph 0021, insert: --Detailed Description of the Invention--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-9.

Add new claims 10 - 29.

10. A method for determining authorization to use a software component of a computer system, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a. accessing a unique hardware identification code of a computer-readable data medium hardware component of the system,
 - b. accessing license information for the software component;
 - c. generating an identification number from the hardware identification code and the license information by means of an encoding algorithm, and
 - d. transmitting the identification number to the computer system on which the software component runs.
11. The method according to claim 10, wherein additional information is used by the encoding algorithm to generate the identification number.
12. The method according to claim 10, wherein a plurality of identification numbers can be generated for one hardware identification code.

13. The method according to claim 10, wherein at least one identification number is stored in a readable and writeable area of the data medium.
14. The method according to claim 10, wherein additional information may be stored on the data medium.
15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the additional data stored on the data medium comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of license information, licensor identification, and software programs.
16. The method according to claim 10, wherein the data medium comprises a component of the computer system.
17. The method according to claim 10, wherein the data medium comprises a memory card.
18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the memory card comprises a multimedia card.
19. The method according to claim 10, wherein the data medium comprises a key which contains information.
20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the key comprises a dongle.
21. The method according to claim 10, wherein the computer system comprises a control unit.
22. The method according to claim 10, wherein the identification number is checked by means of a decoding algorithm.
23. The method according to claim 10, wherein checking for unauthorized use of the software component is performed during startup of the software component.

24. The method according to claim 10, wherein checking for unauthorized use of the software component is performed periodically during use of the software component.

25. A method for determining authorization to use a software component of a computer system, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. accessing a unique hardware identification code of a computer-readable data medium hardware component of the system;
- b. accessing license information for the software component;
- c. generating an identification number from the hardware identification code and the license information by means of an encoding algorithm;
- d. transmitting the identification number to the computer system on which the software component runs;
- e. checking the identification number by means of a decoding algorithm; and
- f1. if the decoded identification number matches the encoded information, permitting a user to utilize the software component; or
- f2. if the decoded identification number does not match the encoded information, restricting the user from access to the software component.

26. A system for determining authorization to use a software component of a computer system, the system comprising:

- a. means for accessing a unique hardware identification code of a computer-readable data medium hardware component of the system;
- b. means for accessing license information for the software component;
- c. means for generating an identification number from the hardware identification code and the license information by means of an encoding algorithm; and

- d. means for transmitting the identification number to the computer system on which the software component runs.

27. A computer readable medium for controlling a computer to determine authorization to use a software component of the system, the computer having stored thereon instructions for performing the steps of:

- a. accessing a unique hardware identification code of a computer-readable data medium hardware component of the system;
- b. accessing license information for the software component;
- c. generating an identification number from the hardware identification code and the license information by means of an encoding algorithm; and
- d. transmitting the identification number to the computer system on which the software component runs.

28. A method for generating an identifier for use in determining authorization to use a software component of the system, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. accessing a unique hardware identification code of a computer-readable data medium hardware component of the system;
- b. accessing license information for the software component; and
- c. generating an identification number from the hardware identification code and the license information by means of an encoding algorithm.

29. An identifier for use in determining authorization to use a software component of a computer system, the identifier generated according to the method of claim 28.

REMARKS

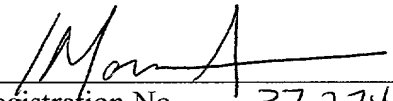
Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-9 have been canceled and claims 10-29 are pending. No new matter has been added.

The Amendment is voluntary and made for the purpose of more distinctly pointing out and claiming the subject matter of the invention. The Amendment is not made for purposes of patentability, nor does it narrow the scope of what is claimed.

Authorization is given to charge Deposit Account No. 19-2179 for any fee due in connection with this communication.

Dated: 4/9/01

Respectfully submitted,


Registration No. 37,274

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